

I CLAIM:

1 1. A method of making an elongated structural
2 component having regions of different thicknesses along a length
3 thereof matched to different loads adapted to be applied to said
4 component, comprising the steps of:

5 (a) rolling metal strip so as to form along a length
6 thereof rolled strip segments of different wall thickness;

7 (b) cutting from the rolled strip sheet bars having
8 regions of the different wall thicknesses formed by rolling in
9 step (a) and matched to different loads to be applied to the
10 component;

11 (c) reshaping each sheet bar cut from the rolled strip
12 in step (b) to a final configuration of the respective structural
13 component in at least one forming step in at least one hot-
14 forming tool; and

15 (d) hardening the respective reshaped sheet bar thereof
16 in the respective hot-forming tool.

1 2. The method defined in claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of marking positions of strip segments of different wall
3 thicknesses; and positioning a cut contour for the cutting in
4 step (b) precisely using the positions marked on the strip.

1 3. The method defined in claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of providing in said strip at thinner segments thereof,
3 for the cutting in step (b), formations compensating for
4 thickness differences in said strip and facilitating stacking
5 thereof.

1 4. The method defined in claim 3 wherein said
2 formations are corrugations.

1 5. A hot-formed and hardened elongated structural
2 component composed of metal and having over its length regions of
3 different wall thicknesses matched to different loading
4 capacities, the structural component being formed from a sheet
5 bar cut from metal strip produced by flexible rolling with
6 segments of different wall thicknesses along a length of the
7 strip.